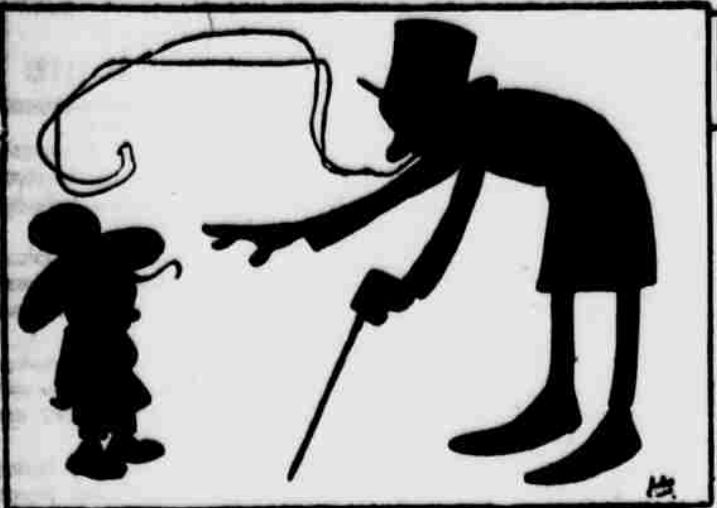


Overheard in Silhouetteville

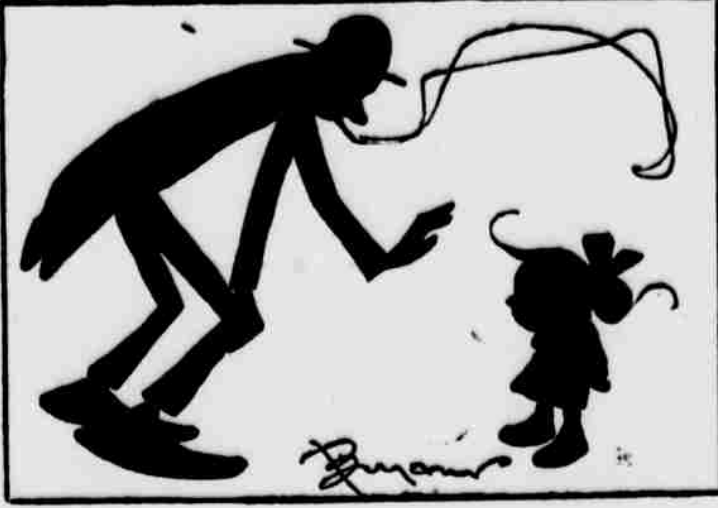
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By J. K. Bryans



"And your mother really said you were 'ugly as sin'?"

"Yep. At least, she said I looked a whole lot like you."



"Haven't you a kiss for uncle this morning?"

"No, sir! I've sworn not to kiss no men till we women get do vote!"



"Please be quiet. You talk continually from morning till night!"

"Well, that's the only change I ever get. I'm always so tired that I sleep from night till morning!"



"Old Dr. Germ says that kissing is dangerous. Do you believe it?"

"Well, I never knew of any harm coming to any one who kissed me!"

Marriage Customs in Many Countries

IN RUSSIA. By Madison C. Peters

Copyright, 1912, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York Evening World.)

WHIT MONDAY is still a great day in St. Petersburg, when the celebrated festival of the choosing of brides takes place. The daughters of the traders assemble on that day in all their finery, marshalled along the flower beds, their mothers carefully stationed behind them. The young maidens are so decorated—hair, ears, arms, neck, hands, feet, any part of the person to which adornment can be fastened, so laden are they with gold and jewelry that scarcely any part of their natural beauty remains uncovered.

Meanwhile the young men with their flowing capstans and beards are paraded by their fathers up and down before the mute and blushing beauties. Eight days after the first bride show the interviews take place at the parents' houses, and through a professional match-maker the young people are betrothed. The wages of this go-between are as regularly fixed as the percentage of a broker. Months may be spent on the preliminaries—the prospects or dowry. The girl has no voice in the matter. It is time enough for the couple to assume the unimportant part of becoming acquainted when their fate has been irrevocably fixed.

In ancient times a betrothed maiden always used to send her future husband a whip, wrought by herself, in token of her submission to him and on her wedding day he gave a gentle stroke upon the shoulders to show that he was the matrimonial master.

Among the nothings the wedding is usually an evening function, the bridal pair fasting during the day which precedes it. The ceremonies are numerous; many assistants and masters of ceremonies have to be invited—ladies of honor and bridesmaids. The party seeking the bride, among the peasants, usually chooses a byway so as not to meet anyone, for a meeting would be an evil omen.

Having arrived at the house of the bride's father they knock at the window and ask for admission. They refuse to sit down, saying "We have not come to sit down nor to feast, but to ask in marriage. We have a brave youth, you have a fair maiden. Might not the two be brought together?"

The bride's parents, thanking the visitor for the compliment, the latter now takes off their caps and sets. This done the matchmakers ask for a final answer, pleading for time to think the matter over the parents finally give their consent after which a candle is lighted and placed before the holy picture. The contracting parties cross themselves, pray, strike hands on the bargain; and the matter is settled. The wedding clothes are blessed by the priest.

Solemn is the blessing bestowed by the respective parents of the bride and bridegroom before leaving their homes. Sacred pictures, which precede them into the church, are waved three times over their heads, two wax tapers are given to the pair and the bearer of the taper which goes out first will be the first to die.

In the marriage ceremony a ring of gold is given by the man to the woman and by the woman to the man and afterwards exchanged by the best man. The bride and groom are crowned with filigree of silver or garlands, and the last act is the dissolution of the crowns, which in olden times took place upon the eighth day, when the bride was conducted to the bridegroom's house. During this last ceremony wine mingled with water is given in allusion to the marriage at Cana.

When the priest, followed by the bridal pair, walk around the "maloy" upon which the Cross and Gospels are placed, an address on their duties is delivered. They kiss each other, the benediction is pronounced and the newly wedded pair kiss the holy pictures. The peasant bride is now led to the bridegroom's home. His parents meet the young couple at the entrance to the house and bless them with bread and salt, while the relatives pour barley and down over them, which expresses the hope that harmony and happiness may be theirs.

The marriageable age fixed by the church is eighteen for boys and sixteen for girls. Men must not marry after eighty or women after sixty. Two years' penance—exclusion from the Holy Communion—is the penalty for a second marriage, five years' penance for the third, while a fourth marriage is impossible.

Betty Vincent's Advice to Lovers

A Promise and Its Sacredness.

APROMISE is an exceedingly important thing and should be kept if the keeping of it is humanly possible.

A girl often prides herself on being capricious and makes a definite engagement with a young man knowing all the time that she intends to break it. Also, she takes her man of to-day to hold his given word too lightly, apt to "forget a date" without the shadow of a real excuse. There is no legitimate defense for the conduct of either girl or man.

If you feel that there is danger of being unable to keep your word you shouldn't give it. But once having promised you should do all in your power to make good.

All this does not apply to keeping an engagement of marriage when love is gone. Here an insistence on the pledged word is exalting the letter at the expense of the spirit. But in the ordinary exigencies of life, where there is no such clear distinction between letter and spirit, one's word should be as good as one's bond.

Different Nationalities.

"R. G." writes: "I want to marry a certain young lady, but she is of a different nationality from my own. Do you think this difference will mar our future life together?"

"N. D." writes: "A young man and I have planned to marry in three years, but my parents and myself want the engagement annulled at once. He says he doesn't want that done for a year, and my parents have forbidden me having anything to do with him if he sticks to his decision. If he really cared for me wouldn't he do as I wished about this?"

"I think so."

"R. G." writes: "I am very much in love with a girl, but I find that she

is in the habit of taking a sleeping drug. Should I give her up on that account?"

"Why don't you try to help her conquer her bad habit?"

"C. B." writes: "I got into conversation with a young woman, without an introduction, and asked her to let me take her out some evening. She refused, although my intentions were perfectly honorable. What shall I do?"

"Accept the young woman's decision. It is wise, considering the circumstances of your meeting."

"A. C." writes: "A girl tells me that she loves me, but I doubt it. For though she is very nice to me when we are alone, she becomes cool as soon as we are among company. Do you really think she cares?"

"Why not? She is probably a bit shy."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

"I think so."

When the Wires Get Crossed

HELLO, PACKING HOUSE! IS THAT WESTERN STEER I ORDERED READY?



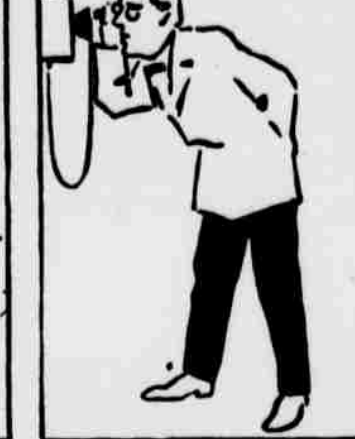
NOT YET, SIR.



HELLO, DOG AND CAT HOSPITAL! HOW IS MY FIDO?



I'M SORRY TO SAY.



AND THEN CENTRAL CROSSED THE WIRES

WE'RE CUTTING HIM UP NOW—VERY FINE BEEF!



BEEF! HOW AWFUL MY POOR POODLE!



HE HAS THE MANGE. YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM FOR TWO WEEKS.



MANGE! TWO WEEKS. I ORDERED PRIME BEEF FOR TO-DAY.



The Wings of the Morning

[Still Another UNUSUAL STORY] By Louis Tracy

Copyright by E. J. Ciolek.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING INSTALLMENTS.

The Mohammedan may be able to help us, she pointed out. In any event let us wait until the moon wanes. That is the darkest hour. We do not know what may happen meanwhile.

The words had hardly left her mouth when an irregular volley was fired at them from the right flank of the enemy's position. Every bullet struck yards above their heads, the common falling of musketry at night being to take too high an aim. But the impact of the missiles on a rock so highly impregnated with minerals caused sparks to fly, and Jenks saw that the Dyaks would obtain by this means a most dangerous index of their position.

Telling Iris to occupy at once her safe corner, he rapidly adjusted a rifle on the wooden rest already prepared in anticipation of an attack from that quarter, and fired three shots at the opposing crest, whence came the majority of gun-flashes.

One, at least, of the three found a human bullet. There was a shout of surprise and pain, and the next volley sprang from the ground level. This could do no damage owing to the angle, but he endeavored to disconnect the marksmen by keeping up a steady fire in their direction. He did not dream of attaining other than a moral effect, as aiming in the dark. Soon he imagined that the burst of flame from his rifle helped the Dyaks, because several bullets whizzed close to his head, and about this time firing recommenced from the crest.

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